Winter Use Plan and EIS

Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway



Newsletter – February 2006

The National Park Service (NPS) has begun preparation of a long-term plan for managing winter recreational use in Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Memorial Parkway. The next public comment opportunity will be when the Draft EIS is released in late - summer 2006.

WHY ANOTHER EIS?

The Temporary Winter Use EA is only intended to guide winter management for three winter seasons; this winter is the second season of operation under the temporary EA. During this three year period, the EA states that the NPS will prepare a long - term analysis on winter use in the parks.

CURRENT WORK

The NPS is developing preliminary alternatives for the DEIS. These emerging alternatives will be made available to the public in mid-March through a newsletter, as well as posting on the winter use website. Additionally, the NPS will host two openhouse meetings in March to present and discuss these emerging alternatives.

Wно

Representatives from Yellowstone and Grand Teton parks will attend the open house meetings, and Cadence, Inc. will participate as both facilitators and event organizers. The expected principal audience representatives includes cooperating agencies and governmental interest groups who have been participating in the winter use planning process to date. Anyone with an interest is welcome.

WHY

The open house format provides an opportunity to roll out emerging alternatives and will create an environment that is valuable for everyone who makes the effort to attend – yet is not a burdensome obligation for participation. It also allows for immediate feedback and dialog with NPS staff.

WHAT

A brief NPS presentation, followed by an open house. The open house will allow the public to review the preliminary alternatives that the NPS may evaluate in the DEIS. It will also provide the NPS with opportunity to hear substantial unanticipated concerns about the emerging alternatives. The presentation will also be available on the winter use website, and a newsletter describing the preliminary alternatives will be mailed in mid-March; this will enable those who can not attend an open house to access the same information at their convenience.

WHEN AND WHERE

Tuesday, March 14, 2006 from 3-7 pm Best Western GranTree Inn 1325 North 7th Avenue Bozeman, Montana 406-587-5621 or 800-624-5865

Thursday, March 16, 2006 from 3 - 7 pm Snow King Resort 400 East Snow King Avenue Jackson, Wyoming 307-733-5200 or 800-522-5464

For more information, please visit: www.nps.gov/yell/winteruse.htm You may also contact Yellowstone National Park at: 307-244-2019.